



April 26, 2005

Former mail handler is sentenced to 21 months in prison for stealing credit cards

A federal judge has sentenced **Oladimeji O. Alli** to 21 months in prison for stealing mail containing credit cards. In January, Alli admitted that, when he worked as a mail handler at the Providence Post Office, he stole envelopes containing unsigned credit cards and sent them to a contact in Holland.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed on April 22 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

Alli pleaded guilty in January to mail theft. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee said the government could prove that, in January 2004, when Alli worked as a mail handler at the main Post Office, agents observed him sifting through mail trays and pocketing letters.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Chafee said that an investigation had begun in late December 2003 after workers at the United Parcel Service station in Warwick became suspicious of a package addressed to Holland and found nine credit cards in different names in the package.

State Police and Postal Inspectors traced the package to Alli and a team of State Police detectives and Postal Inspectors began observing his activities at the Post Office. On January 12, they watched him pocket two envelopes. On January 14, inspectors put envelopes containing credit cards into mail trays and then saw Alli take two letters out of that tray and pocket them.

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He was arrested and admitted that he stole cards, sent them to a contact in Holland, and was paid \$150 for each card.

Alli, 40, of Apartment 5, 14 Veazie Street, Providence, was taken into custody immediately after being sentenced.

The **United States Postal Inspection Service** and the **Rhode Island State Police** investigated the case, with assistance from **Providence Police**. Assistant U.S. Attorney Chafee prosecuted it.

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Contact: 401-709-5032

Thomas.connell@usdoj.gov